

THE COMET.

VOL. I.

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NO. 5.

The State of Texas now has 172 organized counties.

There are 18,000 more women than men in Boston.

Already the small boy begins to dream of going in swimming when nobody is watching him.

Queen Victoria's book was originally written in German, the language with which she is most familiar.

A prisoner about to be tried before a Chicago Justice demanded "a change of vengeance from this Court."

A clergyman who recently held service in Auburn prison preached from the text, "Go home to the friends." His hearers were all willing, but couldn't seem to arrange it.

Almond growing is declared to be a failure in Northern California, the fruit blossoming too early and not bearing a full crop. Gen. Bidwell has recently grafted his almond orchard to prunes.

One of Davy Crockett's old hunting knives, with a four-inch handle and six-inch blade, with a silver band around the handle, has been presented to the Tennessee Historical Society.

A novel feature in the dining room of a hotel in Niagara Falls is a colossal mirror, in which the Falls are reflected in such a manner that the guests may admire while they eat.

Eighty-three per cent. of the population of the United States is composed of white natives and immigrants from Germany and Great Britain, leaving 4 per cent. from other countries and 13 per cent. for those of African descent.

Two hundred thousand depositors in Brooklyn have to their credit in the savings banks of that city nearly \$100,000,000. This represents what they saved from their earnings by economy and thrift.

Pipes for enclosing telegraph and electric lighting wires are now made of paper in America, and meet with much favor. They are impervious to water, and pliable enough to resist breaking. Railway sleepers are now made of paper, hard pressed at a high temperature, and found to serve the purpose better than timber.

The value of lands in the Southern States aggregate but 20 per cent. of the land values in the Union, but the annual products of Southern soil rank at 80 per cent. of the whole. In other words, one-fifth in money value of the land lying in the South produces one-third of the productive values of the entire country.

The Blue Ridge of West Virginia is believed by the State Geologist to contain a slumbering volcano. There is one place of about an acre in extent where the ground never freezes and the snow always melts. Vegetation is always a month in advance of the season. The volcano is believed to be below this spot.

The negroes of northern Georgia are in a great commotion over the presence among them of a female tramp named Mrs. Glauter. She pretends to have visions and to tell fortunes. She is treated with great respect for several reasons, but principally because she has a habit of firing pistols promiscuously when angered.

A singular case of fatal poisoning from a veil has occurred in Kansas. The wife of Judge A. H. Foote, of Lawrence, Kan., had a scratch on her face when she started out for her afternoon walk. She wore a dark green veil to conceal the abrasion. The blood absorbed some of the green coloring matter of the veil, and blood poisoning set in. She died in three days.

The three most distinguished women in Europe at present—Queen Victoria, ex-Empress Eugenie and ex-Queen Isabella—are all widows. Napoleon I. married a widow. Madame de Maintenon ruled as a widow. Gibbon abased himself at the feet of a widow. Rousseau did the same. Disraeli married a widow, and the widowed Empress Catharine was one of the greatest rulers of modern Europe.

Laura Johnson, a Milwaukee girl, became so indignant on reading a letter from her betrothed, in which he expressed the desire to break off their engagement, that she tried to snatch the engagement ring from her finger, but it was so firmly fixed that she could not remove it. Seeing a hatchet near by, she then deliberately chopped the finger off and sent it, with the ring attached, to the faithless lover.

Æsthetic London is paying a pilgrimage to the bridal dress of the future Mrs. Oscar Wilde. The shrine where the mystical garment is exhibited is the show room of a fashionable French dressmaker in Regent street. The dress is saffron-hued, the color worn by Greek maidens on their marriage days, and is adorned with pale violet trimmings, which Hellenic brides would probably hardly countenance. Miss Lloyd's headgear will be of sunflowers.

Peter De Corcey, aged 98, has been in the Otter Tail poorhouse in Minnesota, his descendants having turned him out, except a grandson, who became too poor to care for him. The old man was a soldier in 1812, and has now received a land warrant for 160 acres of land and \$9,200 back pension. How the family thought about him! But he puts them aside as they put him, except the grandson, to whom he has given the land warrant and half the money.

Boston has again broken the monotony of daily existence. This time it is "mind cure." Three women pose before large and fashionable audiences and eradicate disease and sickness by the influence of their minds. Their theory is that there is no such thing as disease; what is called disease is merely a delusion born of an unbalanced mind. One of the apostles has cured a patient subject to epileptic fits. None of them has tackled a red-hot case of small-pox yet, however.

The throne of England, so splendid when covered with silk, velvet and gold, is, in fact, only an "old oak chair," over 600 years in use for the same purpose. Its existence has been traced back to the days of Edward I. The wood is very hard and solid; the back and sides were formerly painted in various colors, and the seat is made of a slab of rough-looking sandstone, twenty-five inches in length, seventeen inches in breadth, and nineteen and one-half in thickness, and in this stone lies the grand peculiarity of the chair.

In the old days, no woman was allowed to desecrate the monastery at San Augustin, Mexico, by so much as putting her foot within its walls. A noble lady of Spain, wife of the reigning viceroy, was bent on visiting it. Nothing could stop her, and in she came. But she found only empty cloisters, for each virtuous monk locked himself securely in his cell, and afterward every stone in the floor which her sacrilegious feet had touched was carefully replaced by new ones fresh from the mountain top before the pollution of her presence was considered removed. But times are sadly changed, and the house has been turned into a common hostelry.

A gentleman living at Aiken S. C., owned a pair of ponies which the family had driven for years. Recently the roads became so bad that he sent the ponies out to his plantation to pasture, and bought a team of stout horses. When the ponies went to the farm the old family coach dog which had run with them for years accompanied them. They had been there a week when the dog trotted back to town to see his master. He hovered around the new horses for a few minutes, and then put off briskly for the farm. In an hour he came back, followed by the two faithful old ponies whose place had been usurped by the horses.

Secor Robeson, the fragrant ex-Secretary of the Navy, has written a letter to Mr. Blaine congratulating the retired literary statesman on his prospect of securing the Republican nomination for President. This is the severest blow that Mr. Blaine has yet received. His still-hunt was progressing beautifully, but the declaration of Robeson will alarm voters of the Independent school. Intelligent people who know something of the disposition of birds of similar feather to flock together will not be slow to appreciate the force of Mr. Robeson's public declaration. It means that Mr. Blaine will not make much headway in New Jersey.

The World's Exposition, at New Orleans, promises to be a great success. Mexico has appropriated \$200,000 for proper presentation of its products and industries at the Exposition. One of the great features of the Exposition will be the Central and South American States. A special commissioner will leave New Orleans this month to conclude arrangements with the Central American Republics and with South America for displays of the products of these countries. It is probable that the main building, although larger than the Centennial building, will not afford sufficient space, and a proposition is now on foot to erect a special building for the collective exhibits of the United States Government departments, each State, Territory, and the chief cities.

The handsomest girl in Sylvania county, Ga., became engaged, nearly forty years ago, to John Gross, the son of a wealthy planter. Shortly after the engagement was announced, Gross went to New Orleans on business, forgot his lady love, settled in Texas, and did not return home until two years later. Though the lady had not heard a word from him in all that time, she was still true. They renewed the engagement, then quarreled, and Gross went off again. He remained away until a few days ago, when he returned to the old homestead to celebrate his sixtieth birthday. He found his fiancée still waiting, and promptly married her. She had refused many offers of marriage during his absence. Three men whom she had refused became respectively a Congressman, a Senator, and a Governor.

Would Roscoe Conkling Have Voted for Tilden?

In anticipation of the passage of the Electoral Commission bill, the Republican Senators held a caucus the day before, or on Friday, Jan. 26, 1877, to discuss the situation and to canvass the selection of the three Republican Senators to constitute that part of the electoral tribunal. It was generally agreed by the caucus that Senator Edmunds, who voted for, and Senator Morton, who voted against, the bill should constitute two of the Senatorial representation. The caucus then set about selecting the third member, and Senator Howe was suggested for the place. Senator Edmunds, who led the friends of compromise, strongly urged Senator Conkling. This proposition was generally well received, but before action was taken by the caucus, Senator Morton arose, and in a speech of some vigor, openly gave utterance to his distrust of Senator Conkling's views on certain questions which were indispensable to the support of Mr. Hayes' claims; that the Senator from New York was reported to have said that Mr. Hayes was entitled to but one vote from the State of Oregon. Other Senators made the same declaration, some, it is stated, having upon their own authority announced that the Senator had declared that he would not consent to any arrangement in the premises, and that the natural conclusion of his utterances led to no other result than that his course would be such as to give the electoral votes of one of the State of Oregon to Mr. Tilden, thus depriving Mr. Hayes of the office of President. It was also mentioned as relevant to this view of the Senator's attitude that he had permitted several months to pass without saying that he ever believed Mr. Hayes to have been elected.

There is little doubt that Mr. Conkling would have been placed on the Commission had it not been for this distrust of his loyalty to the Republican party. This discussion gave rise to much feeling in the caucus. Senator Edmunds declared that he would have nothing to do with the compromise of two enemies of the plan of settlement were put upon the Commission. A rupture now seemed imminent. At this juncture Simon Cameron, who was opposed to the plan, brought his skill in political diplomacy to bear. The hour for the meeting of the Senate having arrived, the caucus broke up without result. The Senate having voted an early adjournment, the caucus reassembled. The name of Senator Frelinghuysen, which was proposed as a compromise, was next discussed. It was known that this gentleman had declared publicly that he was in favor of the bill, because it would elect Mr. Hayes. This raised the point of eligibility under the usual forms of tribunals for the adjudication of controversies on matters of fact. At the urgent solicitation of both sides he agreed to serve.

The facts as stated demonstrate that Mr. Conkling was the choice of Mr. Edmunds, the head of the Senatorial representation, and a majority of the Senators, and that his name was withdrawn on account of the belief of the Republican Senators that he would oppose giving the electoral vote of Oregon to Mr. Hayes.—Boston Herald.

Six Distinguished Heads.

There are a half dozen men in the House who attract attention of all lookers on when the tariff is mentioned. They are Morrison, Hurd, and Carlisle on the one side, and Randall, McKinley, and Kelley on the other. Randall attracts more attention from the galleries and among those on the floor just now than any other man in the House. There are men in the House who are always talking and never heard; Mr. Randall is heard whenever he talks, and felt often when he does not. The usual question, when a stranger takes his seat in the gallery, is, "Which is Randall?" The next one asked for is usually Morrison; then as the glance wanders to the minority side, he wants to see Kelly and McKinley.

In some respects these great tariff thinkers are alike. There is one peculiarity observable in most of them, the shape of the head. Hurd has a head as round as a bullet. McKinley's head is shaped much like Hurd's. Morrison is, too, a round-headed fellow, though his head is buried in such a mass of hair that it is difficult to tell much what it is like. Morrison and Kelly are the only ones of the distinguished tariff sextet who wear whiskers. Randall, McKinley, and Carlisle are absolutely smooth faced, while Hurd sports a heavy black mustache. Randall's head is much after the type of McKinley's, though not so strongly marked as to roundness. Carlisle's shows less of this peculiarity, and Kelley's is anything but round.

Cincinnati Leads All the Rest. And now abideth Danville, Copiah, and Cincinnati—these three, but the greatest of these is Cincinnati.—Chicago News.

The Greatest of Stars.

Messrs. Hough and Burnham, of the Dearborn Observatory, have been engaged lately in micrometrical measurements of the companion of Sirius, the brightest star by far in the whole heavens. The distance of Sirius from the earth is estimated to be 1,375,000 times greater than the distance of the sun, or about 123,750,000,000 miles. Or, to measure its distance another way, its light, traveling at the rate of 180,000 miles per second, would be more than twenty-one years in reaching the earth. In other words still, the astronomer who turns his telescope now on that star sees it as it was more than a score of years ago. The dimensions of the star must be enormous, even as compared with our sun, for it is quite twice the brilliancy of its companions, while our sun at that distance would probably appear like a star of the fourth magnitude.

The discovery of the companion of Sirius was made by the Chicago instrument; not, however, by any of our local astronomers. Mr. Clark, the maker of the telescope, mounted it temporarily for trial at Cambridge, and, turning it upon Sirius, was amazed and delighted to find a little star of the tenth magnitude, which it had been suspected must be near that great luminary. According to Mr. Burnham, who for several years has kept watch of this pair, the companion moves in positive angle between three and five degrees a year, and approaches the primary about three or four-tenths of a second for that period. It will soon, he says, be so near its primary as to escape its observation, by reason of the great brilliancy of the brighter stars. Indeed, it is owing to the brightness of Sirius that astronomers failed for so long a time to discover the companion, the latter being within the powers of a small telescope were it not so close to a brilliant luminary. Sirius is the bright star seen nearly due south and about thirty degrees from the horizon just after night-fall. It is to the left of the conspicuous constellation Orion and lower down.—Chicago Times.

The Primary Cause of the Cincinnati Riot.

"The root of the difficulty," says Gov. Hoadly of Ohio, in reference to the Cincinnati riot, "lies in the unwillingness of reputable citizens to respond to the calls of public duty."

The disinclination of busy men to serve as jurors is notorious in every large city. If those who are most competent to do justice in the jury box thus evade their obligations to the public in this respect, they have nobody but themselves to blame if guilty men are improperly acquitted. Gov. Hoadly suggests that the law should admit no excuses whatever from jury service, but should compel every qualified citizen to serve when duly summoned. There are strong arguments in favor of this plan.

No State can prosper so long as any considerable body of its citizens neglect their public duties. Let every qualified elector attend the caucus and primary meetings of his party, vote at all elections, and duly perform his part in the administration of justice by serving as a jurymen, and we shall have less frequent occasion for the political reform movements which have been so common of late years.—New York Sun.

Wilkin's Star Proverbs.

A joy lender is seldom a trouble-bearer.

Many men begin to rise when they begin to lie.

Slander is the greatest lightning of malevolence.

The brain of geniuses differs from the brain of fools.

He who makes the best of life loses the work of death.

The cream of experience is obtained from spilled milk.

When anger rises good judgement sits down on a back seat.

Youth sucks the sugar coating and old age chews the bitter pill of life.

Men use virtue as an umbrella to keep the rain of brimstone off their Sunday clothes.

The devil's time is so much employed that he details idleness and conceit to run in recruits.

The bee has long been a type of the industrious worker ("the busy bee improves each shining hour"), but there are few people who know how much labor the sweet hoard of the hive represents. Each head of clover contains about sixty distinct flower tubes, each of which contains a portion of sugar. The proboscis of the bee must therefore be inserted into 500 flower tubes before one grain of sugar can be obtained. There are 7,000 grains in a pound, and as honey contains three-fourths of its weight of dry sugar, each pound of honey represents 2,500,000 flower tubes sucked by bees. As the working bee lives but six months and the drone bee but four months, may not the fact account for extraordinary activity? Who knows? The queen bee, it should be remembered, is exceptional to the above in longevity, as she lives four years.

Letter from California.

GONZALES, CAL., Mch. 29, 1884. Eds. THE COMET:—Through the kindness of my friend, A. T. Hickey, I received a number of THE COMET, and as I still have a desire to keep posted in regard to East Tennessee's affairs, and especially upper East Tennessee, I have decided to subscribe for your paper for a year, so I enclose herewith postal note on Johnson City for \$1.25. It has been more than a year since I was in Johnson City, I guess I would hardly know the place now from what I have heard, am glad to hear that it is improving.

I think if the farmers of East Tennessee would come to California and learn how to work, they could go back and make one of the grandest countries in the world out of what people are now leaving because they can't make a living. The fault is not in the country, but the trouble is with the people.

I had the pleasure, not long since, of visiting one of the largest dairy and stock ranches in this country, (Monterey). The ranch contains seven thousand acres. About four thousand acres of farming land, and the balance is used for grazing purposes. Mr. Corey, the owner, is a very industrious man and has everything just exactly right. He employs from twenty to thirty men all the time. The breakfast hour is five o'clock a.m. and supper at six p.m. This year Mr. C.—has about thirteen hundred acres of wheat and barley sown, and considerable other farm products sown and planted. At present he is milking about three hundred cows, makes one hundred and eighty pounds of butter per day, has seven hundred hogs, seventy-five horses, and several hundred head of young cattle and dry cows. Mr. Corey and her two nieces, young ladies, have a fine lot of poultry, which they give their personal attention. Tennessee young ladies, (most of them) would consider that kind of work unfit for their "dainty hands," and I must say that some of California's young ladies are of the same opinion.

I forgot to say that Mr. Corey occupied this ranch as lessee until last fall; he purchased it for twenty dollars per acre. I will leave this subject now, and advise Tennessee farmers to work more hours per day and six days per week and they will find their financial condition much improved in a few years.

I have been in the employ of Faw & Edwards ever since I came to California, which will be one year on the first day of April. First, I was a laborer in their Gonzales warehouse, and more recently, telegraph operator and warehouse clerk, am getting along first rate.

Wishing you and your paper success I will ask the "boy not to stand on the burning deck" too long, and close.

Geo. E. Faw.

Lost in a Balloon.

On the 10th of December last, Mr. Walter Powell, a member of the English House of Commons, ascended in a balloon from Bath, England, in company with Mr. App. Gardner and Captain Temple. The latter was connected with the Meteorological office, and the ascent was made for the purpose of ascertaining the temperature of the air and the amount of snow in the air. They cleared the snow clouds at an altitude of 4,000 feet. The balloon, which was a comparatively new one, and the largest belonging to the War Department, its cubical contents being 38,000 feet, passed over Wells and Glastonbury and reached Leominster, having meanwhile descended to a low altitude. It was then traveling in a current which carried it at the rate of thirty miles an hour. They coasted along close to the ground until they reached Symondsburg, where they called to a man and asked the distance to Bridgeport, which he told them was about a mile. Some ballast was thrown out and the balloon arose to a height of 1,500 feet.

Captain Temple then opened the valve and the balloon descended, striking the earth and throwing him out, with the valve rope in his hand. Mr. Gardner jumped out and fell, breaking his leg, thus preventing him from going to the aid of Captain Temple, through whose hands the valve rope was rapidly running. Relieved of the weight of two of its occupants, the balloon soared upward, and was borne by the air current out to sea. Notice was sent to the coast-guard along the coast, to masters of outgoing vessels, a steamer was chartered and started out to sea to search for the balloon, but since that time no information has been received of the balloon or its occupants. Of course there is no doubt that the balloon was wrecked and that Mr. Powell was drowned. The unfortunate balloonist was thirty-nine years old. He had been for years past an enthusiastic aeronaut, and had made a great many ascents.

A Boston policeman has been declared insolvent. As his club is his only asset, the creditors are not very clamorous for a dividend.

The Ladies—God Bless Them.

This is the way she talked to her grocery man, while another customer stood at the counter and was in a hurry to be waited on, and all the rest of the clerks busy: "Well, let me see—I can't think of anything else I want. What is that? Canned salmon—no, I guess not. Oh, I guess you may send me some sugar. I think we're nearly out of sugar. I don't quite know. You may send five pounds—no, not five pounds—send three pounds and a half. Our box is too small to hold five pounds. Well (walks slowly up and down the store). I don't think I want anything else to-day. What is this—bottled horse-radish? Is it good. How much is a bottle? Well, I don't know. No, I guess not. Well, yes; I'll take it. Oh, yes—and send a Spanish onion and a half dozen bottles of porter. Well, I guess that's all. How much are these grapes? No, I won't have any to-day. They look nice, too. Well, send a pound. (Goes toward the door.) Don't forget to send the things right away. Oh, I forgot (turning back). Some pepper. Have you white pepper? Send a box. Now, you'll be sure to send them in time, won't you? I think that's about all." (Goes out.) Customer goes as far as "I want"—(she returns.) "Now, don't forget to send those things right away, will you? How much is this red cabbage a head? I think you may put a head in along with the rest," and she was gone. "What can I do for you? Sorry I've kept you so long waiting," said the grocer. "Can you change me a half dollar?" said the weary man in waiting.

He Staid.

Talk about pretty girls—but she was a wild flower and no mistake! She got on the train to go over to Meridian from Vicksburg, and she was all alone. There was a sort of sideling movement among five or six men, but a drummer for a Philadelphia sadlerly house got there first. He grabbed up his grip and walked square up to her seat and took possession of half of it without asking a question, and in ten minutes he seemed to be perfectly at home. She answered his questions briefly, and he had the hardest kind of work to keep up conversation, and as the train approached Jackson, she suddenly said:

"I want to telegraph papa from here. Will you help me?"

"Oh! certainly. I have a blank in my pocket. Write your telegram, and I will run into the office with it."

We missed him when the train started, but by and by he was found in the smoking car, his hat crushed down and his nerves all on edge. When asked what had happened, he drew forth the telegram which the girl had requested him to hand in. It read:

"Bring your shot-gun with you to pop over a drummer who has dreadfully annoyed me. Shoot to kill."

"To think," he gasped, "that one so fair could be so murderous! Why, I'm all in a sweat! I want some of you to stand by me!"

We got his grip from the seat, traded hats and coats with him, and the way he slid from the depot when the train reached Meridian caused a hotel porter to observe:

"Well, now, but that white face belongs to an invalid and them legs to a deer! What sort of a coon can he be?"—Detroit Free Press.

A Printer's Paronomasia.

A pretty and dashing little lady who called at our office the other day to see how type was set on, and asked the foreman if he could print a kiss.

"Oh, yes," said he, "if I was allowed to lock up your 'form.'"

"Now, you are 'imposing' on me and I won't 'stand' it. If that's your 'rule' I think it's a 'case' where I'd be 'justified' in hitting you with a 'stick.'"

"Be 'composed,' miss, and I'll speak 'plainer' to 'chase' away your fears. Not for all the 'quoin' in Christendom would I 'take' advantage of your ignorance, and I would give you 'proof' that you are not my 'dupe'—rather, I would 'slug' the person who had 'lead' you to think so.

"Ah, yes, I know," she replied. "These 'stereotyped' sentences I've heard before, but in a shorter 'space' of time than this I've known a printer to take an 'em brace.' But I couldn't 'column' man a gentleman, who'd do so; could you?"

"I'd like to put a 'displayed head' on him," was the foreman's reply as he went off to swear at the "devil" down the elevator.

A Roguish Rat.

A gentleman who is very reliable tells us that in Oconee county a rat came down the side of a chimney and went to a hen's nest close by, got an egg out, wound his tail around it and carried the same to its nest in the chimney. Some of the rocks were taken out to see what the rat had in its bed and at least a peck of egg-shells were found, with a spoon that had been lost for several years.—Athens Banner.

'Tis night. The moon her silent sable wears and flirts with the stars." O shame!

"Have you seen George lately, Charley?" "No; I loaned him five dollars as much as three weeks ago."

Clean up your back yards and hence your old tomato cans over the fence. Be kind to your neighbors.

We are going to have our name changed to Opportunity, because leap year is the time when opportunities are embraced by the ladies.

Japanese soldiers carry fans, but in this country soldiers do all their blowing with their mouths. Customs vary in various countries.

Young man, you cannot succeed in inveigling a young woman into giving her age by casually remarking that it is your birthday. The trick has been tried.

Dear Harry jumped at my suggestion, That we to matrimony drop; I took last night to pop the question—I'll take to-night to question pop.

Out West, when a girl wants her male admirer to go home, she takes down her back hair. When she wants him to stay at home, she takes out her teeth.

An eccentric old gentleman who had married his second wife, a hoydenish young creature, entertained a party of gentlemen one afternoon, and was much chagrined by the non-appearance of his girlish spouse. Upon inquiring he ascertained that she was in the garden, and thereupon invited his guests out to be introduced to her. As they rose to accept the invitation, his son, a lad of fourteen, exclaimed, "Don't do it, dad!" "Why not?" he asked angrily. "Because," returned the boy, half apologetically, "she's up at a cherry tree."

There is much in the present bull market to remind one of the man down in Indiana who was the only man in his village having any loose cash capital. He was the other day explaining to an eastern man:

"The only stock afloat in our neighborhood are five shares of an old saw-mill which hasn't paid these ten years. Monday mornings I circulate the report that a syndicate has bought the mill and will at once put it in repair. This sends the shares up to twenty-five, and I sell out."

"That's legitimate."

"Wednesdays I let it be understood that the syndicate is busted, and nothing will be done to the mill. This sends the stock back to ten and I load up."

"And what do you do on Saturdays?"

"Oh, those are my regular days for working up a feeling in the country that I ought to be paid a bonus for converting the sawmill into a distillery."—Wall Street News.

The Tennessee Way.

A smart-stepping citizen of Tennessee was in New York a few days ago to see about raising money for a proposed railroad line down in his country, and when asked to explain, he said:

"There's no explanation about it. This is to be a railroad 200 miles long. 'But about the company?'"

"Oh, that's been organized and all the officers elected."

"What's the capital?"

"Fifty million dollars."

"How much stock has been taken?"

"About \$800 worth."

"What—only \$800 worth?"

"That's all, mister, and if you fellows down here will only pitch in, gobble up the rest of it, we'll go al d and make things hum."

A Mormon Engagement.

"My dear," said a Mormon wife to her husband. "I should think that you would be ashamed of yourself, flirting with that Miss B. as you did in church to-day."

"Flirting with her?" he replied in astonishment; "why, we have been engaged for more than three months. It's all over town."

"Oh, I beg your pardon," said his wife indifferently. "If you are engaged to her, I suppose it is all right. When does the happy event occur?"—Philadelphia Call.

Too Many Lodges.

"Oh, for a lodge in some vast wilderness!" quoted Mr. Splatterly, the other day, when he was feeling in a poetic mood.

"Should think you had lodges enough!" said Mrs. Splatterly. "You are out now four nights in the week to lodges, and if you had another, in a wilderness, I don't suppose you would be home at all, except to eat."

Free Trade in Minnesota.

St. Paul, Minn., April 3.—Members of all the political parties in the State met this evening to organize a "Minnesota State Free Trade League." The constitution declares in favor of absolute free trade and pledges the members neither to support nor vote for any candidate for Congress or for members of the Legislature who is not pledged to free trade. The membership includes some of the most prominent men of both political parties.